

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2261

To encourage the formation of industry-led training consortia, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2000

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. ROBB, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To encourage the formation of industry-led training consortia, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Industry Training
5 Consortia Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) EMPLOYER.—The term “employer” includes
9 a business.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Commerce.

3 **TITLE I—SKILL GRANTS**

4 **SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in
6 consultation and coordination with the Secretary of Labor
7 and the Administrator of the Small Business Administra-
8 tion, shall provide grants to eligible entities described in
9 subsection (b). The Secretary shall provide the grants to
10 encourage employers to form consortia to share the cost
11 of providing, and reduce the risk of investing in, employer-
12 led education and training programs for employees that
13 meet employer needs and market demand in specific occu-
14 pations, for purposes of strengthening United States com-
15 petitiveness.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity described
18 in this subsection is a consortium that—

19 (A) shall consist of representatives from
20 not fewer than 10 employers (or nonprofit orga-
21 nizations that represent employers) who are in
22 a common industry or who have common skill
23 needs; and

24 (B) may consist of representatives from 1
25 or more of the following:

1 (i) Labor organizations.

2 (ii) State and local government agen-
3 cies.

4 (iii) Education organizations.

5 (2) MAJORITY OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A ma-
6 jority of the representatives comprising the consor-
7 tium shall be representatives described in paragraph
8 (1)(A).

9 (c) PRIORITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—In pro-
10 viding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
11 give priority to an eligible entity if a majority of represent-
12 atives forming the entity represent small-business con-
13 cerns, as described in section 3(a) of the Small Business
14 Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

15 (d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of
16 a grant provided to an eligible entity under subsection (a)
17 may not exceed \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year.

18 **SEC. 102. APPLICATION.**

19 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 101,
20 an eligible entity shall submit an application to the Sec-
21 retary at such time, in such manner, and containing such
22 information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

23 **SEC. 103. USE OF AMOUNTS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not provide a
25 grant under section 101 to an eligible entity unless such

1 entity agrees to use amounts received from such grant to
2 develop an employer-led education and training program
3 (which may be focused on developing skills related to com-
4 puter technology, computer-based manufacturing tech-
5 nology, telecommunications, and other information tech-
6 nologies) necessary to meet employer needs and market
7 demand in specific occupations.

8 (b) CONDUCT OF PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program
10 described in subsection (a), the eligible entity may
11 provide for—

12 (A) an assessment of training and job skill
13 needs for industry and other employers;

14 (B) development of a sequence of skill
15 standards that are correlated with advanced in-
16 dustry or occupational practices;

17 (C) development of curriculum and train-
18 ing methods;

19 (D) purchase or receipt of donations of
20 training equipment;

21 (E) identification of education and training
22 providers;

23 (F) development of apprenticeship pro-
24 grams;

1 (G) development of education and training
2 programs for incumbent and dislocated workers
3 and new workers;

4 (H) development of the membership of the
5 entity;

6 (I) development of internship, field, and
7 technical project experiences; and

8 (J) provision of assistance to member em-
9 ployers in their human resource development
10 planning.

11 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—In carrying
12 out the program described in subsection (a), the eli-
13 gible entity shall—

14 (A) provide for development and tracking
15 of performance outcome measures for the pro-
16 gram and the education and training providers
17 involved in the program; and

18 (B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
19 such reports as the Secretary may require on
20 best practices developed by the entity through
21 the education and training program.

22 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The eligible entity
23 may use not more than 10 percent of the amount of such
24 a grant to pay for administrative costs associated with the
25 program described in subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 104. REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

2 The Secretary may not provide a grant under section
3 101 to an eligible entity unless such entity agrees that—

4 (1) the entity will make available non-Federal
5 contributions toward the costs of carrying out activi-
6 ties under section 103 in an amount that is not less
7 than \$2 for each \$1 of Federal funds provided under
8 a grant under section 101; and

9 (2) of such non-Federal contributions, not less
10 than \$1 of each such \$2 shall be from employers
11 with representatives serving on the eligible entity.

12 **SEC. 105. LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

13 The Secretary may use not more than 5 percent of
14 the funds made available to carry out this title—

15 (1) to pay for Federal administrative costs as-
16 sociated with making grants under this title, includ-
17 ing carrying out activities described in section 106;
18 and

19 (2) to develop and maintain an electronic clear-
20 inghouse of information on industry-led training
21 consortia programs.

22 **SEC. 106. INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

23 The Secretary shall distribute information and pro-
24 vide technical assistance to eligible entities on best prac-
25 tices developed through the education and training pro-
26 grams.

1 **SEC. 107. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this title \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2001,
4 2002, and 2003.

5 **TITLE II—PLANNING GRANTS**

6 **SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, in
8 consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall provide
9 grants to States to enable the States to assist employers,
10 organizations, and agencies described in section 101(b) in
11 conducting planning to form consortia described in such
12 section.

13 (b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of
14 a grant provided to a State under subsection (a) may not
15 exceed \$500,000 for any fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 202. APPLICATION.**

17 To be eligible to receive a grant under section 201,
18 a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at
19 such time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
20 tion as the Secretary may reasonably require.

21 **SEC. 203. REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS.**

22 The Secretary may not provide a grant under section
23 201 to a State unless such State agrees that the State
24 will make available non-Federal contributions toward the
25 costs of carrying out activities under this title in an

1 amount that is not less than \$1 for each \$1 of Federal
2 funds provided under a grant under section 201.

3 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this title \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

